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Dare to disco

Sir Sam's Ski and Ride hosted their annual Ladies' Day on Friday, Feb.7. The theme was a "disco cowgirl party" and all attendees were sure to dress the part. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Minimum wage, social assistance fall short, says public health

JAMES MATTHEWS
Staff Reporter

Public health officials have taken steps to illustrate the dire straits brought on by financial struggles and food insecurity.

The Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough (HKNP) Health Unit launched a new Food Insecurity Dashboard that reveals the rising challenges faced by local families.

The dashboard and accompanying infographics shed light on the financial struggles many experience due to low incomes and insufficient social assistance.

The Food Insecurity Dashboard allows users to explore the data interactively, comparing household income scenarios, annual trends, and regional variations. Accompanying the dashboard are infographics tailored to Haliburton County, City of Kawartha Lakes, and Northumberland County to illustrate the precarious financial situations faced by food-insecure households. It presents some of the difficult choices people are forced to make between basic needs such as housing, food, utilities, transportation, and clothing.

Explore the rate of food insecurity and

see NO page 2

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Russell Red Records is now Redmans Records

THOMAS SMITH

Staff Reporter

Redmans Records is in the process of revamping the record shop in downtown Haliburton. New owner, Kelsey Redman, is using her artistic background to add a new flair to the shop. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Dan Manley and his partner Collin Burke opened Russell Red Records in 2019.

Manley has a lifelong love of music and is active in the arts community of Haliburton as music director of the Highlands Chamber Orchestra and co-conductor of the Highlands Wind Symphony.

Manley and Burke's strengths symphonized wonderfully in creating their store, with Burke in charge of the store's artistic direction, including their iconic logo. Manley, a computer programmer by day, used his skill-set in designing the store's website and integrated a seamless point of sale system. Through Russell Red Records' website, customers were able to search songs, catalogue numbers, look at conditions of used vinyl, and view images of the records.

Throughout their six years of operation, Manley and Burke pursued several ventures with Russell Red; including offering specialty coffee, comic books, cold soda, and music equipment.

"Growth during the (COVID-19) pandemic was amazing," said Manley. With people being stuck at home and vacationing in Ontario, Manley says that their best year for sales was during the pandemic.

Inflation, the price of rent, and the future uncertainties of a niche market were all factors that have led to Manley and Burke choosing to close their shop.

"We were really hoping things were going to turn around," said Manley.

Throughout the years, Russell Red Records brought bands to play in the record store, and offered their merch for sale, hosted queer nights, and had a fleet of staff that offered music recommendations and pleasant conversation.

If there was a record that you wanted, Russell Red Records was there to order it for you.

Manley and Burke noticed the decline in business in 2023. Optimistic for 2024, the revenue for the store never quite bounced back.

With the recent tariffs threatened by the United States, Manley's concerns regarding the future of the record industry in Canada have risen. Very little records are pressed in Canada, says Manley. While some records are pressed in Czechia and the United Kingdom, a large majority of mainstream musicians and popular artists in Canada have their records pressed in the United States.

In 2024, Kelsey Redman was hired as manager for Russell Red Records. In that same year, Manley let the staff know that they had plans to shutter the doors.

Soon after, Redman approached Manley to express interest in purchasing the business.

From the age of 10, music has been an integral part of Redman's life, having learned the double bass. Redman has continued playing instruments in the Haliburton Highlands Chamber Orchestra and Swing Band.

Redman hopes to expand the music equipment aspect of the business and will offer violin, viola, and guitar strings for sale. With The Source closing down last year, Redman Records hopes to become the top destination for music equipment in the county. With eight months of experience working as manager for the store, she is familiar with the ins and outs of the business and are excited for people to pick up vinyl that was ordered before the rebranding.

There will be a selection of used instruments for sale soon. Sodas will still be available for purchase in the retro fridge and nostalgic treats such as Thrills gum have been added to their inventory.

The espresso machine is currently down, but Redman has plans to offer a selection of specialty drinks and food, once renovations are complete and the premise is cleared to serve food. Redman Records will also soon have a space for people to enjoy drinks and food within the store.

With Russell Red Records closing indefinitely, Manley is looking forward to devoting more time to the Haliburton Arts Centre Foundation.

The storefront is currently open and is now branded as Redman Records. Redman says that up to $100 worth of loyalty points from Russell Red Records can be redeemed, but the program will not be continued. Gift cards from Russell Red Records are also currently accepted.

The store will happily accept any donations of vinyl and look at your used vinyl to purchase.

With an eye set on chartreuse, a splash of other colours, and a rebranding to fit the retro feel, Redman is excited to use her skills as an artist in giving the store a facelift. Redman Records continues the legacy of taking special orders for any record, new or used. No matter the rarity, they will give their best effort in tracking down the perfect record for your collection.

"You have to go out and buy from them and keep the store open," said Manley. "That's how you keep the cool things going in Haliburton County."

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No respite from food insecurity

from page 1

compare household income scenarios in the district by visiting the Food Insecurity Dashboard and learn more about the impacts, solutions, and local supports available at hkpr.on.ca/FoodInsecurity.

According to the data, a family of two adults with two children would have spent on average $1,237 per month towards eating healthy in 2024.

"Minimum wage and social assistance rates are just not keeping up with the significant rising costs of basic necessities like food, housing, and utilities," said Sarah Tsang, registered dietitian and health equity coordinator with the health unit.

"Food insecurity is not a matter of diet. It is a serious public health issue that leads to long-term physical and mental health challenges."

The dashboard clearly demonstrates the growing gap between income and the cost of basic needs. For instance, a family of four with one minimum wage earner spends over 90 per cent of their income on rent and food, leaving only a few hundred dollars to cover all other living expenses.

The situation is even more dire for individuals and families reliant on social assistance.

A single person on Ontario Works living in Haliburton County would need an additional $903 every month to just cover the costs of rent and food.

A family of four on Ontario Works living in Northumberland County would need an additional $1,356 every month to cover the costs of rent and food.

A single person with Old Age Security/Guaranteed Income Supplement in the City of Kawartha Lakes has only $75 remaining every month to pay for other necessities, after paying for rent and food.

The former Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge public health unit declared food insecurity a public health issue in May 2024.

Dr. Natalie Bocking, who was the medical officer of health before being named the deputy medical officer under the newly formed HKNP unit, said then that food insecurity is defined as not having enough money to buy food.

"Food banks and charities are not a solution to this issue," Bocking said. "They help to mitigate the challenges, the problems for families impacted by it, but they're not the solution."

Two-year food insecurity rates in the health unit's district have remained largely steady at about 16 per cent. Food costs and housing costs have increased. Despite some modest increases to some social programs, there's been little respite.

What's needed are systemic and income-related strategies that are long-term poverty reduction measures. That includes adequate incomes to ensure at least a sufficient minimum standard of living, improved employment standards, increased social assistance rates, and providing a basic income guarantee.

Living in a food insecure household increases risks to people's mental health, infections, and chronic diseases. And that's a public health issue, she said.

The lack of access to food due to insufficient income forces individuals and families to make tough choices each month. These difficult decisions often mean choosing between paying for rent or putting food on the table.

Tsang said the consequences of food insecurity extend far beyond poor nutrition. It increases the risk of chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, anxiety, and depression.

It also makes managing existing health issues more difficult, increasing the strain on healthcare resources.

"Being able to purchase nutritious food is simply unattainable for many households in our area," Tsang said. "We can reverse this unfortunate reality by focusing on long-term solutions, particularly poverty reduction, ensuring adequate affordable housing, and providing incomes that better reflect the true cost of living."

The health unit advocates for several measures to address food insecurity including increases to social assistance to match the real costs of living and indexed to inflation.

People need a basic income guarantee and employment standards that reduce unstable work conditions. And more affordable adequate housing options are required.

Political profiles

NDP puts healthcare on the forefront

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Barbara Doyle is no stranger to working with people. As the managing director at Kawartha Lakes Museum and Archives, with a background in management, real estate, and human rights advocacy, Doyle is deeply immersed in the history, the stories, and the needs of her community.

As the New Democratic Party (NDP) candidate for Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, and Brock townships in the upcoming provincial election, Doyle is committed to representing her community and the surrounding areas by putting the people first.

And she's made it clear that accessible healthcare is top of mind during this election. "It's our number one priority," she said. "We have to get the Minden ER re-opened."

Minden's emergency room (ER) was closed in June of 2023, after a short few months of notice. The closure left the community scrambling to understand the reasoning behind the abrupt decision, and advocates are still fighting for the re-opening both at a local level, as well as provincially.

"We need to stop blaming institutions that are chronically underfunded for their closures," said Doyle. "We will re-open the Minden ER. It'll take some time to get things revamped, but this is not the time to be cutting back on healthcare support."

Doyle and her NDP comrades are adamantly opposed to the privatization of healthcare; a notion that the Conservative government has alluded to on occasion. "I have always considered myself a builder," she said. "And right now, we have a government that tears down, and is making shifts to private."

The NDP has been active in the fight to re-open the Minden ER, with multiple visits and promises from Chris Glover, the MPP for Spadina Fort York, and Marit Stiles, the Ontario NDP leader.

Barbara Doyle of Lindsay is the NDP candidate for the local riding. This is her third election that she is participating in, and encourages everyone to go out and vote. /photo submitted

On top of healthcare, Doyle is passionate about tourism, arts, and culture in small towns. "For every dollar spent on arts and culture, it has been proven that it brings in an average of $11.70 into local businesses."

Doyle noted that in a time of singularity and online consumption, having public spaces reduces isolation and encourages community connection. "Tourism is a huge economic driver," she said. "And small business owners are the lifeblood of our areas. I would like to see a lot more support for small business owners."

The NDP is acutely aware of large retailers increasing their costs at the expense of Ontarians. If elected, Doyle shared that they will be introducing a monthly grocery supplement as a direct deposit, based on income and family size. This will be paired with developing a strategy to combat price gouging by corporate retailers. "I really like this approach," she said, "help now and then a plan to deal with the root problem of ever increasing grocery prices."

When asked about her predictions for the poll results, she noted that the snap election being called over the winter months can be challenging for small towns. "The aspect of a winter campaign in rural areas will result in a lot of voter suppression."

Doyle believes that the reasoning behind the quick election is opportunistic for the Conservative Party, who are currently sitting with a majority government. "This election was simply the Conservatives attempt to secure power," she said. "There was absolutely no need to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on this."

In light of this, Doyle strongly encourages everyone to get out to the polls on Feb. 27. "I think there will be a very low voter turnout, because people are thinking that their vote doesn't matter," she said. "But if you want to vote for any party that you truly believe in, then you should vote."

Doyle believes that in this current political climate, the NDP has their "best chance" of coming out on top. But she needs people to show up to make it happen.

"People really need to get out to the polls,"she said, "and make themselves heard."

Green Party focused on environmental sustainability

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

In light of the snap election called by Premier Doug Ford on Jan. 28, candidates across the province have been scrambling to get their political ducks in a row leading up to the Feb. 27 poll date.

While it may seem rushed from a voter perspective, Green Party candidate Tom Regina says that rumours of the abrupt, wintery election have been in the works since last September.

"It is a quick decision, but we've been getting ready for it," he said. "You don't know when it's going to happen, but there were signs. And people aren't happy about it."

Regina has called Haliburton home since 1990. Over his years as a teacher at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, he was given an immersive look at the socio-econonomic build of the community.

Upon his retirement from teaching, Regina dove into the world of politics, deeply learning and navigating through the varying platforms, in an effort to understand who could best represent the needs of our local community. "I went from party to party," he said, "and I was looking at all their policies, and the Green Party is the only party born out of the mandate for protecting the environment."

In a world where climate change is on the forefront of many global disasters, environmental sustainability and protection was an absolutely crucial factor when it came to choosing someone to represent the needs of the people.

Regina began volunteering with Green Party, and realized that more and more of his values were represented within their beliefs; affordable housing, access to healthcare, environmental sustainability, and equity and compassion for all. "I really feel strongly about our Green values," he said. "All policies are imbued with the central values of sustainability and concern for the environment."

Tom Regina of Haliburton is the Green Party candidate for the local riding. Since the last election, he has noticed a shift in local priorities and interests. /photo submitted

Regina now sits as the Central East Regional representative for the Green Party, and this will be his second election experience, with the first run in June, 2022.

Canvassing in the winter months versus the summer has come with its own wealth of difficulties. "I haven't been able to go out and about the same way I did before," Regina noted. He shared that going door-to-door - a common practice during election time - is challenging in frigid temperatures and blizzards. He also noted that adding signs around the community is next to impossible with snow drifts and plows barraging them from view, and he is concerned about the fact that poor weather could deter folks from showing up on voting days.

There's a reason most elections usually take place during warmer months.

While Haliburton County has long had a conservatively-based voter turnout, Regina says that the polls could look different this time around. "In this riding, it always seems to be a foregone conclusion," he agreed, "but there's been a lot of unhappiness with conservatives."

In the 2022 election, the local Green Party had over a 50 per cent increase in their popularity, and while the numbers were still small, it signified a shift in interests and priorities amongst the local population. "That's showing us that a lot more people are aligned with climate and environmental priorities," noted Regina.

In terms of the outcome for the coming election, Regina says there is uncertainty. While many are directing their attention to the political strife in the United States, the concerns for politics at a local level seems to be on the backburner.

"It's a crystal ball decision," said Regina. "But I don't think it's going to turn out the way Mr. Ford wants it to."

HE gets the budget ball rolling with capital wish lists

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

Highlands East council recently got a first look at this year's capital budget.

Municipal department heads forecasted during council's Jan. 28 meeting some of their respective 2025 capital needs will be in the proposed spending plan. They detailed for council some of the more important needs on their departmental wish list.

The township has a total monetary request for proposed capital projects of $2,272,508. That's compared to the $2,132,159 purse that was sought in 2024. That's an overall difference of $140,349 or six per cent increase over last year. In the interest of comparison, Brittany McCaw, the township's CAO and treasurer, said 2024 had a 10 per cent increase over the previous year for capital projects.

Council will next meet to consider the 2025 municipal capital and operating budget on Feb. 18.

"The capital budget deliberation is a crucial and exciting opportunity to discuss our direction for the upcoming year," McCaw said.

It's imperative, given challenging economic circumstances, that the town invest wisely in its infrastructure, services, and community projects. As such, the proposed capital budget illustrates a commitment to improving residents' quality of life in a fiscally responsible manner.

Significant money is suggested to be put toward maintenance of roads and bridges, and water and wastewater infrastructure upgrades.

"These investments are essential to support our growing population as well as ensuring the safety and efficiency of our transportation networks and our water, wastewater infrastructure," she said.

Upgrades to community centres and facilities will accommodate the needs of residents. Funding has also been earmarked for environmentally sound initiatives and projects.

"We have allocated funds to improve and enhance our operations," McCaw said. "Through innovative technology we strive to improve efficiency and productivity that can complement and reduce our manual processes."

On the administration side, McCaw said there's a theme among the investments that has a technological bend.

"Not necessarily are they just strictly for the Administration Department, but often admin is administering on behalf of other departments in the municipality," she said.

Some of those projects revolve around information security and improvements to software. Highlands East started a joint records management effort with Haliburton County and other municipalities last year.

Some money was spent on the StoneShare software. McCaw said the township will continue its collaborations with the upper tier and migrate all departments files to the software.

"We did previously raise funds for this project in prior years," she said. "So we will be looking to utilize a transfer from reserves of $40,000 with the remainder being funded through taxation."

"I'm very impressed with the fact that we're moving much deeper into the 21st Century than we had done in the past," Deputy Mayor Cecil Ryall said. "Electronics is the way we have to do it, especially when it fuses time, cost, and increases the ability of our people to get the information they need."

McCaw said the capital spending plan will be paid for with a combination of municipal revenues, provincial and federal grant programs, and any available money from reserves.

She said it is a balanced and forward-thinking plan that addresses the community's immediate needs and lays the groundwork for long-term success.

"We carefully prioritized our projects ensure that we maximized the impact of every dollar spent," she said. "Our capital budget is a reflection of our collective vision for a prosperous and sustainable future."

Pink power

Ladies' Day at Sir Sam's Ski and Ride on Friday, Feb. 7 had a disco cowgirl theme, and included games and activities in the chalet that aligned with that theme. Pictured, a skier tosses pink, feathery hats to try to balance on a ski during the frosty day of festivities. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Electronics Recycling

Dysart ratepayers can drop off electronics for recycling at Haliburton, Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay, and West Guilford Landfills during regular operating hours.

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It is your responsibility to ensure personal data is permanently removed from all electronics such as computers, laptops, tablets, phones, cell phones, etc. The Municipality of Dysart et al and its electronics recycler cannot accept liability for any data that remains on electronics left at the site.

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An open letter from the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) is aware that mistaken information regarding our Highlands Corridor initiative is presently circulating across social media. While we welcome public conversation regarding all of our work, it is essential that those conversations be based on accurate facts. We are pleased to provide the necessary corrections here so that you, as a community member, can answer any questions that you or your friends and neighbours may have.

The large land area recognized as the Highlands Corridor comprises private property, Crown Land, and provincial parks. The misunderstanding on social media arises from the land trust advocating for a Conservation Reserve designation on certain segments of Crown Land. A Conservation Reserve restricts forestry, mining and aggregate industry use of the land, but does not impact recreational use. To be specific:

- The three provincial parks falling within the Corridor would continue to be governed as they currently are by Ontario Parks.
- The areas of Crown Land that are currently managed through Crown Land patents for logging and aggregate extraction would continue to be managed as they are at present, and would not fall under the Conservation Reserve designation. These industries are an important piece of our local economy that HHLT supports.
- Only those areas of Crown Land comprised of intact forest and wetland with high ecological value and low industrial value are being advocated for the Conservation Reserve designation. These will be areas where the logging, mining and aggregate companies agree that there is little to no economic value to their industries.
- Private property would not fall under the Conservation Reserve designation and would not be impacted. Private property owners would continue to be welcome to participate in the Land Trust's Partners in Conservation program should they wish to learn more about supporting ecosystem health on their own properties.

The Land Trust has been a topic of discussion on social media in regards to their Highlands Corridor, but the organizations is seeking to set the record straight. /FILE

We choose to advocate for conservation reserves because trail use on motorized vehicles or by foot is allowed in a conservation reserve. Hunting, fishing, and trapping are also allowed. We recognize these heritage and outdoor activities are important in our community and for tourism, and they keep our economy vibrant. We support their ongoing use on Crown Land designated as a Conservation Reserve. Only logging, the development of new quarries, and mining would be prohibited in the designated sections.

With regard to the sources of information that have been cited in social media posts, it is important to clarify that Ontario Nature is a registered charity, not a regulating agency. While it has established regulations concerning public use of its own private properties, these regulations are not provincially mandated and would not apply in the Corridor. Similarly, Ontario Parks manages provincial parks to a much higher standard of protection than Conservation Reserves, so the public use guidelines outlined on the Ontario Parks website would not apply to the proposed Conservation Reserve land. Only provincial legislation directly concerning Conservation Reserves has any authority over these spaces. HHLT would have neither the power to set rules, nor the authority to manage or in any way control what happens in those areas.

Our ability to get out in nature -- be it on foot, on skis or ATV or dirt bike, to hunt or to fish -- is precisely what HHLT seeks to promote and protect through the establishment of Conservation Reserve spaces throughout the corridor. By designating these spaces as Conservation Reserves we are safeguarding the health of these pristine forests and wetlands and ensuring the public's enjoyment of them for generations to come.

Please visit www.haliburtonlandtrust.ca/2025/02/highlands-corridor-clarification/ for a full FAQ on HHLT's work in the Highlands Corridor.

Submitted

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Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) delivers high-quality health services to residents, cottagers, and visitors to Haliburton County and the surrounding area. We work closely with local and regional partners to optimize health and wellbeing in Haliburton County by providing access to essential health services, including Primary Care, Hospital (Acute Inpatient and Emergency Care), Long-Term Care, End-of-Life Care, Mental Health & Addictions Services, and Community Support Services. For more information about our organization please visit our website at www.hhhs.ca.

HHHS is seeking strategic, experienced, engaged, and talented members of our community to join us in pursuit of this vision by participating as a voluntary member as a Board Community Member on one of the Board's Standing Committees.
At a minimum, Board Community Member should expect to devote approximately 4-6 hours of time per month, including attendance at committee meetings (about 9 per year) held in-person and/or virtually.

Annual Board Community Member recruitment is based on vacancies and the requirements identified through a Board Skills Matrix that ensures a complementary balance of knowledge, skills and experience. **This year we are seeking individuals with clinical background, legal, and patient and healthcare advocacy backgrounds**.

At HHHS, we recognize and respect the contributions that a diverse team can make to our healthcare system. We welcome candidates of diverse backgrounds, abilities, and identities to apply. If you require assistance or accommodations in the process, please contact Michel Henry for prompt support.

How to be Considered
Interested applicants are requested to complete an application form and submit it along with a covering letter and resume via email quoting "HHHS Board Community Member Recruitment" in the subject line to mhenry@hhhs.ca by **March 1, 2025**. All applications will be acknowledged and held in confidence.

Application forms and additional board information can be found at:
www.hhhs.ca/about/board

Inquiries can be directed to:
Email: mhenry@hhhs.ca
Phone: (705) 457-2527

points of view

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You are what you read

THERE'S BEEN a lot of talk lately around what we consume, and whether it's Canadian. Ongoing tariff disputes and unaligned principles with a certain oligarchical government to the south has left a sense of patriotism and nationalism that's generally reserved for Olympic hockey games.

And while we peruse the grocery store shelves for that desired "Made in Canada" stamp of approval, what about our other forms of consumption?

Most of us find our news online. And while some opt into subscriptions for valid news sources and websites, many others stick to what's free and easy: social media.

But here is your friendly reminder that since June of 2023, there is absolutely no real Canadian news on social media platforms.

emily stonehouse

Editorial

Bill C-18 was put into effect by the federal government nearly two years ago now, and there are still many who have not noticed. Some are quick to jump on the blame train towards the government, but in actuality, the canker sore of this development is on the social media moguls; specifically Mark Zuckerberg of Meta (Facebook and Instagram) and Elon Musk of X (formerly known as Twitter).

These two men hold a monopoly on what people consume online. In 2022, digital advertising revenues in Canada were $14 billion. Over 80 per cent of these revenues went directly back to Zuckerberg and Musk, while small news agencies across the country closed their doors for good.

Bill C-18 was put in place to encourage these multi-billionaires to compensate news agencies for creating content for the masses.

But instead, because they hold the power, they revoked all posting privileges for the foreseeable future.

That means that our online pages - yes, even for small Canadian newspapers like the *Haliburton Echo* and the *Minden Times* - were completely removed, blocked, and blacked out.

I still regularly receive e-mails asking why we aren't active on social media. Because people don't realize that the posts and pages they follow are not legitimate news sites. They are consuming content that the social media algorithms are producing, and interpreting it as real news. And that terrifies me.

As we watch the United States revoke basic human rights from women, from the LGBTQIA+ community, from children, from anyone who doesn't follow their strict and complacent path, I can't help but wonder if Canada could follow suit.

And while we are striving to be more Canadian, the True North, Strong and Free, making mindful decisions about what we consume needs to extend beyond our next maple syrup purchase.

We need to support Canadian authors, writers, filmmakers, artists. We need to ask questions about where our news content is coming from, and in small yet meticulous ways, show that we eat, breathe, and live for Canada.

So in the coming election, let's be mindful about who is fighting for not only our needs, but our news, as well.

Because after all, we are what we read. And we deserve more than something that's been chewed up and spit out by a select few billionaires.

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While winter still clings onto it's last breaths, the promise of longer days ahead rests in the light. /EMILY STONEHOUSE

Enduring

THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who make cross country skiing happen in our beautiful county. Thanks to the Board of Directors for the Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trail and Ski Club Association. Thank you to all of the people who groom the trails, who run the Jack Rabbits program and teach in it. And thanks to the landowners who allow us use of their land to ski on.

My friends and I say if you need a little pick me up just go over to Glebe Park on a Saturday afternoon. Almost 100 children are learning to ski. The tobogan hill is often very busy. People are out walking through the Sculpture Forest. It is a hub of good energy and delight. And I think we all need more of that in our lives these days. I am not going to lie, when Moosewoods was sold I was very sad. I loved skiing there because of the gently rolling hills and the warm up cabin. It was the perfect place for me.

Tales from the great

lynda shadbolt

Green meadow

Like many skiers I made the transition back to skiing at Glebe Park this winter. It is hilly and I have huffed and puffed my way around many days since the season began. The snow conditions have been so good and the grooming is excellent and so I had to try because I love to ski. It is hillier than Moosewoods and I wondered if I could still do it. The first few times I didn't even leave the stadium area. I skied around and around just working on my technique and building some confidence and tenacity to head into the woods and onto the trail. And eventually I started doing a small loop and gradually increased the distance.

What really helped me was thinking about the element of water which is part of the five element theory in Chinese Traditional Medicine. Water is associated with the season of winter and the kidneys. The idea is that water teaches us about effortless rest, effortless action. Bringing ease and relaxation into whatever we do. It's not about doing nothing, but about doing whatever you do without struggle or strife. Bringing kindness as you go. On the ski trail for me that means giving myself lots of permission to stop and catch my breath. I take in the beauty. And carry on. I pay attention to my face and make sure I'm not clenching my jaw. I observe my thoughts and notice when they get harsh or critical or negative and again I pause and think about how water moves. It is so powerful and soft and at the same time and can create change over time. If I think about how water moves, it doesn't strive or push. It flows. It settles and becomes quiet. I think about skiing in the same way. Some days the flow is easier and some days my legs are so heavy I huff and puff around. And I just trust the process. Water is enduring and so am I.

points of view

Bright ideas

steve galea

Loon Tales

THE OTHER day after looking at a lamp, it occurred to me that I could not remember the last time I changed a light bulb. This bothered me because, quite frankly, it is one of the few technical jobs I'm good at.

In fact, I believe I could have made a career out of it.

Sure, on anything taller than a floor lamp, I require a ladder. But otherwise, I am a reliable practitioner of the "Lefty loosie, tighty righty" technique – which, frankly, is all you need to know. To be honest, I believe my ability to change lightbulbs was one of the main things that Jenn found attractive about me.

But I digress. One of the other things that bothered me about my lack of recent light bulb changing is that this is probably an indication that I'm no longer having great ideas.

Because unless a childhood education gained entirely from TV cartoons is totally incorrect, a light bulb going off over your head and raised hand is practically the only indication you have that you thought of a great idea. That's why you never see Trump anywhere near overhead lighting.

Perhaps because I know how to show a lady a good time, I broached the subject with Jenn, just before we turned in for the night.

"When's the last time you changed a lightbulb?" I asked.

"I can't recall," she said.

"That's what I thought," I replied.

Pro tip: when your spouse asks what you mean by that, you shouldn't answer honestly.

Anyhow, after she rolled her eyes and repeatedly muttered "why me?" I thought it might be best to introduce more intelligent conversation.

"Boy, I bet Albert Einstein changed a lot of light bulbs, huh?" I said.

She shot me a look of total incomprehension, then picked up her book, and resumed reading.

Who could blame her? This is the kind of thing that only deep thinkers like myself routinely mull over while avoiding books.

That's when I began to wonder what would happen if I didn't have a great idea but turned on a lightbulb over my head anyway? Would a great idea suddenly occur to me?

A few experiments with Jenn's overhead reading lamp indicated that this is not the way it works. In fact, if the next hour of silence was any indication at all, it was a horrible idea.

Ergo – which is a word I only use when desperately trying to sound intelligent – it occurred to me that you can't just conjure brilliant ideas out of thin air. Which is unfortunate, since many people have told me my head is filled with it.

I guess what I am getting at here is that brilliant ideas – the kind that make you stick an index finger up in the air and yell "Eureka!" – require lightbulbs. Which is probably why people rarely think of great ideas on camping trips – unless you have to replace a flashlight bulb, I suppose.

Clearly, more research is needed, and more questions need to be answered. For instance, do you get better ideas from a 100-watt bulb than you would from a 40-watt one?

When I posed this to Jenn, she finally said, "Can you at least try to say something intelligent?"

I smiled at her and replied, "Ergo…"

Letters to the Editor note: Submissions are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.

pic of the past

Lakeside Park, Haliburton, Ontario from many years ago. The trail along the side of Head Lake is still used daily to commute to different parts of the town, though the tree-line and signage have changed over the years. If you know what year this photo was taken or have memories of Haliburton from this era, please email emily@haliburtonpress.com.

letters to the editor

EV chargers not our job

To the Editor,

As Mayor Fearry and Deputy Mayor McKechnie have pointed out, Environment Haliburton seems to have missed the bulletin that EV sales will soon be declining, as government subsidies end, and EV costs continue to rise.

If EV manufacturers or EV vehicle owners were funding such grants, including all ongoing costs for operation, maintenance, and repairs, it would be different, but government money comes from taxpayers, and that's us! Given the state of our economy (national to local) right now, municipal spending should only be directed towards initiatives which benefit most taxpayers.

And if EV tourism (out of town visitors driving EV's) is costing Haliburton inns, lodges, hotels, and motels lost business, I'm sure those establishments will install their own EV charging stations in due course, just as many have chosen to install block heater outlets for cold weather plug-in of gasoline vehicles' batteries.

Dave Love
Haliburton Lake

Dysart council puts up walls

To the Editor,

Good for Emily Stonehouse's editorial in last week's *Echo* about the walls Dysart et al's council continue to put up to moving our community forward. Imagine objecting to something that will encourage visitors to stay here and spend their money. But then this fits with an attitude toward climate change – among other issues. I recall Mayor Fearrey saying during a council meeting several months ago that "There's been climate change for the last thousand years." Progressive, innovative and accountable are hardly words we can use to describe these representatives. They sure don't represent me.

Sharon Lynch
Haliburton

Time to elect bridge builders

To the Editor,

The February 4th editorial speaks volumes. Leadership matters and consequently, elections really matter. It can be argued that one can divide people into two groups: those that build walls and those that build bridges. What has become abundantly clear in the past few months is that responsible and accountable leadership is in short supply at all levels of government….nationally and internationally. Locally, Ms. Hay's studied research and rationale for the Municipality of Dysart et al to apply for a grant to cover the cost of four EV chargers should have been a very short discussion. What part of her presentation didn't make abundant sense? Why the resistance to a logical improvement to our communities? Walls!

It's high time we recognize that the wall builders archaic approach isn't working and that now is the time to elect bridge builders…..individuals who are progressive, smart and accountable. People who listen to and advocate for their constituents. People who care. It's never been more important to consider who we vote for and why.

Sean Pennylegion
Haliburton

Valentine's Day Feature

Love around the world: the Devolins' story

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Love isn't linear.

It has twists and turns, bumps and bends.

And sometimes, it can span across continents and oceans.

But it's still always there.

That's something that has become clear for Barry and Ursula Devolin.

The couple has been married for 31 years, but their lives have been intertwined for even longer than that.

"When my parents first moved to Haliburton," recalled Barry, "they only knew one couple: John and Linda Beachli."

The Beachli's are Ursula's parents, and are deeply ingrained into the fabrics of Haliburton County, much like the Devolins were, once they settled into the community many years ago.

At one point, Barry was working with Ursula's mom, Linda, at Remax, and his brother, Brent, was working with John.

By 1993, Barry and Ursula made it official. At the time, she was in her first year of studies at the University of Ottawa, and Barry was starting to get involved in politics; a move that would map out the next few years in his career.

The two got married on Aug. 2, 1993, at St. Anthony's in Minden, with the reception held at Deer Lodge. "It was a really big wedding," recalled Ursula. They reflected on a column written by the *Echo's* own Sharon Lynch, titled "The Summer Wedding" that paid tribute to the newlyweds.

And while their family's roots ran deep in Haliburton County, Barry and Ursula were eager to hit the road. "In those first ten years of marriage," noted Ursula, "we moved thirteen times."

In 1996, they settled in Korea, where Barry started teaching at a university, and Ursula worked with after

school programs. "We always thought to ourselves, what adventures can we have?" asked Barry. "And the randomness of those choices led to a life-long passion of travel, together."

Barry shared that his spark for travel was always lit; starting with a Rotary exchange he participated in at the age of 16. "From that point on, all my extra cash was spent on travel," he laughed.

For Ursula, while she loves the sense of adventure, she recognizes that she needs a home-base to make travels run a little smoother. "Haliburton is my anchor," she said. "I don't mind floating away, but I need to be tethered somewhere."

The couple's shared love of travel was a trait they were sure to pass on to their children: George and Molly, who are now in their 20s, but have already led a life fuelled by adventure.

"When the kids were 11 and 13, we took them on a 19 country tour," said Ursula. "Six months around the world." Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and Australia; the family backpacked and traipsed around all the corners of the globe.

And while they made sure to keep up with homeschooling requirements, the Devolins believe that their kids got the best education from seeing the world. "We went to a bunch of places we knew," said Barry, "but we also went to a bunch of places we didn't know. And now, they have such a broad context of the world around them."

While Barry and Ursula worked separately for many years - Barry as an educator and a variety of roles in politics, and Ursula with the Water Ambassadors locally - they now find themselves in a place in their lives where their shared passion of travel is overlapping.

Fuelled by memories of the round-the-world trip that he had planned with his kids, Barry launched Travel Maven in 2018, which is specifically guided tours developed for independent travellers. The intention is to offer a detailed itinerary and some structure to trans-continental trips, while allowing the travellers to explore and experience at their own pace.

And with business booming, Ursula has stepped in to help Barry expand and grow.

In fact, this whole interview was conducted via Zoom, while the Devolins watched the sunset in Kruger Safari in South Africa. While I was bundled in a scarf and listening to my kids discuss the movie choices for the second snow day in a row, Barry and Ursula were shoulder to shoulder in t-shirts, with a warm, pinkish light shadowing their faces.

On the date of the interview, it was their last day together with their group in South Africa. The following day, Ursula was headed off to meet another group, with Barry continuing on through the safari. Love isn't linear. It has twists and turns, bumps and bends.

And sometimes, it can span across continents and oceans.

But it's always still there.

"If you really share interests with someone," says Barry, "that's so critically important."

Disco dancing, lobsters, and a log cabin: the Martins' story

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

The Frost Centre in Algonquin Highlands has captivated many over the years. The towering buildings off Highway 35, headed towards Dorset, have sat empty for some years.

But prior to that, it was a hustling and bustling hub of youth and activity.

Originally built in 1944, the Frost Centre was known as the Ranger School, as it was built in collaboration between the Province of Ontario and the University of Toronto Faculty of Forestry, to educate government officials and university students through both in-class sessions, and amongst the great outdoors.

By 1969, the purpose of the facility shifted gears slightly, when the curriculum was taken over by Ontario's colleges and universities. In 1974, the Ontario Premier at the time, William G. Davis, officially called the education centre the Leslie M. Frost Natural Resources Centre, and it became the first outdoor facility completely dedicated to environmental education in Ontario.

Enter: Barrie Martin. The year is 1976, and Barrie had recently graduated from the University of Guelph. He was starting a project that focused on bird populations around the area, which had a start time of 5 a.m. each day.

He didn't see much of the other young professionals, considering the early start time, but occasionally, he joined some of them at Deerhurst Resort, to go disco dancing.

It was here that he met Pat, who was also spending her first summer working at the Frost Centre, and the two would dance the nights away over that hazy 1970s summer.

By the time fall rolled around, they each went back to their respective lives and jobs in different cities, but by the summer of 1977, they had reconnected. "It was very

pleasant to find out my dance partner was back," chuckled Barrie.

That summer, the two of them went to a lobster party (which is exactly what it sounds like, I asked,) and they decided to turn their friendship into something a little more official. In fact, they weren't the only ones who found love that summer at the Frost Centre. Five other couples also got together, and still remain together today; celebrating their anniversaries with one another, and maintaining close dynamics with the original group.

"It was a very sociable time at the Frost Centre," recalled Barrie, referencing Halloween parties, dance lessons, and a wide variety of activities. He stayed on to work at the facility for 28 years as an education specialist.

Following her Frost Centre years, Pat got a job in Richmond Hill, but by 1980, she was offered another position farther south, and she had a decision to make.

She decided to move back to Haliburton, where she and Barrie were married. They purchased an old log house in West Guilford, and by 1983, they had their first son, Aaron, followed by their second, Adrian, at the end of 1987. "The love of the land kept us in Haliburton," said Barrie.

The couple became deeply ingrained into the community, with Barrie working on a variety of tourism initiatives, including Trails and Tours, and Pat stepping into the role of planner for Dysart et al. "We always had a really good balance between our personal lives, and our couple lives," shared Pat, thinking back on their 45 years of marriage.

In 2004, the Frost Centre officially closed its doors, and with it, the memories and adventures that so many had experienced there over the years.

Barrie was able to shift gears, and founded the well-known tourism company, Yours Outdoors, which still operates today out of Haliburton Forest. This gave him the opportunity to become even more intrinsically woven into the community of Haliburton, and was able to showcase the best of the best across the Highlands, and beyond.

After a decade of diving deep into the local tourism landscape, Barrie made the decision to retire about a year ago. And while he and Pat have hung up their professional hats, the two now see this as an opportunity to continue to experience life together. "You have to be with someone who shares your values," said Pat. "Yes," Barrie agreed, as we sipped tea in the log home they had started their family in, 45 years ago. "We get to do more things together, now. We like the flexibility of being retired, even if we are both still active in the community."

The two cited friendship, communications, and companionship as their core values for making a relationship succeed, for 45 years and beyond.

And now that their busy lives are entering this new stage of retirement, maybe they can go disco dancing once again.

VALENTINE'S DAY FEATURE

Right place, right time: Rachel and Jenna's story

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

In 2016, Jenna De Guzman had just graduated from university in Halifax, and was on her way out to a promising job opportunity in Alberta.

In the middle, she spent two months in the Toronto area, visiting family and friends. At the time, she was using a dating app, Tinder, which identifies fellow singles in the area. One night, while she was driving through a neighbourhood she hadn't visited before in the city, she got a notification that she had a match in that area. The app is geographically-based, so location is key.

"It was serendipity," smiled Jenna.

It was the right place, right time for the app to match Jenna with Rachel Morgan, who was at a crossroads in her life, and navigating her next steps in Toronto.

The two decided to meet for the first time shortly after the match, at a little cafe near Rachel's apartment. "It was five minutes away from her place," laughed Jenna, "and she was still late."

Rachel had been going through some personal challenges; including her beloved dog being diagnosed with cancer. "I wasn't in a place to date at the time," she said, "but I remember that before we met, Jenna was texting me, and she referenced my dog, and said she understands me, and I thought that was really cool."

So Rachel decided to go ahead with the date, "and I remember I was wearing really geeky glasses," she chuckled, "and yes, I was late, but I walked in and saw her, and just thought she looked so cool."

"I was totally awestruck," said Jenna, her face mirroring the way she looked; jaw-dropped.

The two had an adventurous first date: drinks, an escape room at Casa Loma, meeting one another's friends, karaoke in the car.

And deep down, they already knew. "I kept thinking about how this is going to suck that I am only here for two months," said Jenna.

The couple decided to play it cool; Rachel easing her way back into the dating world after being burned a few times, and Jenna knowing that she wasn't in a place to commit to anything long term, considering the expiration date on her Ontario visit. "But a week before she was leaving, she mumbled 'I love you,' and then we knew we were in it," said Rachel.

They agreed to try long distance, with Jenna headed out west, and Rachel sticking to Ontario, but after only a few short months, they knew they couldn't be without one another. During a visit to Niagara Falls, Rachel was ready to make it official.

It was during a wine and bike tour, "and I was just waiting for the right moment to ask her," she shared, referencing the shiny ring she had packed in her purple backpack.

She found the moment at sunset, on a rickety dock at a winery, and although the future was uncertain with the span of Canada between them, Jenna said yes to a lifetime with Rachel.

Following their engagement, Rachel moved out to Alberta to join Jenna, and they learned the true meaning of growing together. "We had spent the majority of our relationship doing long distance," said Jenna, "so we had learned to communicate without seeing body language. I think that helped us a lot."

With Jenna being an extrovert and Rachel happily introverted, they ran into some problems early on, but knew that they cared about each other enough to power through. "We're very different people, but we had rules in place," said Rachel. "Boundaries are important," agreed Jenna, "and we always just made sure we felt safe around one another."

The two were married in 2019 at the Bonnie View Inn in Haliburton, but returned out west for work. By 2022, though, they were ready to come home. "I needed a break," said Rachel, citing some personal challenges she had encountered, "I just needed a month to be surrounded by family."

The couple returned home, and while Rachel was casually looking for work, she spotted a job as an occupational therapist, which is the exact field that Jenna was looking for work in. "And that's when we knew that it was officially time to move home," said Jenna.

Happily settled into the community, with a home in Minden and jobs they love, Jenna and Rachel are looking ahead; hoping to start a family, and continue their adventures together. "I'm always open to different possibilities in the future," said Jenna, "but right now, this is where we are supposed to be."

Circus Incognitus is clowning around this February

THOMAS SMITH
Staff Reporter

On Sunday, Feb. 16, Razzamatazz Kids' Shows! will be bringing Circus Incogntius to the stage in Haliburton. Jami Adkins stars in the one-man show that has been performed over 1,000 times in 23 countries.

"We invite the audience to come along for the journey as things go askew in this one man circus comedy show, Circus Incognitus," said Nicole Stewart, Chair of Razamatazz. "Watch as Jamie wrangles a chair, a ladder falls apart underfoot and he attempts to juggle everything!"

Throughout Circus Incognitus, Adkins performs as balancing artist, eclectic clown, juggler and multidisciplinary acrobat.

"Razzamataz is pleased to present, for the very first time in Haliburton County, Jamie Adkins and his show, Circus Incognitus from Quebec," said Stewart. "A hilarious comedy about the vulnerable everyman navigating his way through the surprising obstacles that pop up in everyday life."

Stewart describes Circus Incognitus as having a European feel. "It is funny, poetic and beautifully simple," said Stewart. "Adkins' incredible circus skills and dazzling performance style are a nod to clowns of silent film and the age of cartoons. This show is guaranteed to make you laugh and cry in delight."

Circus Incognitus is the third show out of four in their annual Razzamataz Kids' Shows! series.

Razzamataz Kids' Shows! strives to bring high-quality, affordable and culturally diverse performances to children and families in Haliburton County.

"Come and experience affordable, live theatre without leaving the County," said Stewart. "Don't miss our last show of the season on Sunday May 11, presenting Kattam and His Tam Tams, featuring world music, drumming and dancing and a djembe drum workshop."

Tickets are available for purchase online at razzamataz.ca or in cash, at the door. Tickets are $7 for kids and $10 for adults. The performance will be taking place at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion located in the Haliburton Highlands High School.

"Don't miss out on the fun with this one-man comedy circus act that is sure to delight all ages," said Stewart.

February Folk Fest

The Haliburton County Folk Society hosted a Folks and Friends at the Legion on Sunday afternoon, where multiple performers provided entertainment. Jeff Moulton kicked things off, with special guest Rich Anton joining later on harmonica, before Anna Morgan and band took to the stage during the three-hour event. /ADAM FRISK special to the *Echo*

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Hal High sports

Volleyball victory

Hal High faced off against Brock this past week on the volleyball court, and came out on top with a 2-0 win. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Court competitions

The Hal High Boys Basketball team played against St. Thomas Aquinas this past week, and notched another win with an impressive 50-40 score. /TIM YANO staff photographer

CLUES ACROSS
1. Cut a little bit off
5. State with confidence
11. River in NE Scotland
14. Not narrow
15. Lacking social polish
16. Amount of time
17. Frame
19. Automobile
20. Toadstools
21. High school dances
22. Utilize
23. Challenged
25. One-sided
27. Showing extreme greed
31. Potted plants
34. Everyone has one
35. Lake in Botswana
38. E.T. rode in one
39. Juniors' parents
41. Small amount
42. Mother of Perseus
44. Ornamental box
45. Gov't investigators
46. Uncertain
49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
51. The vast grassy plains in S. America
55. Your consciousness of your own identity
56. Noted consumer advocate
60. Spanish sports club
61. Body part
62. Tractability
64. Woman (French)
65. Ready and willing to be taught

CLUES DOWN
1. Brushed aside
2. Water sprite
3. Ones to look up to
4. Monetary units
5. A number everyone has
6. Marine invertebrate
7. One who takes you to court
8. Indicates outer
9. Parallelograms
10. Strains
11. Cross
12. A way to remove
13. Some pages are dog-__
18. Ukraine city
24. A citizen of Denmark
26. Summer month (abbr.)
28. Hindu queens
29. Jewelry brand
30. Fictional rider of Rohan
31. Wet dirt
32. Russian city
33. Observed
36. Furious
37. Drivers' licenses
39. Musical composition
40. Auction
43. They __
45. Women
47. Inspire with love
48. Japanese ankle sock
49. Appears
50. Old World lizard
52. The leading performer
53. Type of protein
54. Pennsylvania town
57. Art __: around 1920
58. __ Blyton, children's author
59. Abnormal breathing
63. A place to sleep
66. Muslim ruler title
67. Depressed
68. Gradually gave way
69. Clear-thinking

Answers on page 17

Sleeping in Cars sets a date

Get ready to make a difference! March 21, 2025, marks the date for #SleepingInCars2025, a unique event to raise funds for affordable housing in Haliburton County. Participants and sponsors are invited to spend a night in their cars with Places For People (P4P). Together, we can ensure everyone in our community has a place to call home.

In response to the Ontario government's $200 tax rebate, P4P is encouraging those who can to consider donating these funds to help us address the urgent need for affordable housing in our County. As a registered charity, every donation goes directly toward supporting this vital cause.

This year, we're aiming to surpass last year's incredible fundraising total of $30,000. P4P President Susan Tromanhauser hopes to raise at least $40,000, building on the success of previous years when donations were doubled. Let's make it happen!

#TakeTheChallenge

Fay Martin, founder of Places For People, invites individuals and teams to join the challenge. It's simple—send us a photo or video of you with your sleeping bag and a cheque (if you're donating) beside your car. Challenge your friends and competitors to join us. For full event details, visit placesforpeople.ca and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for regular updates.

Thank you to ACM

We are thrilled to announce that ACM Design will once again be leading as our Event Sponsor for #SleepingInCars2025. Their generous support is making this event possible, and we are so grateful for their continued partnership.

A Community That Cares

Haliburton County, one of Ontario's most economically challenged areas, consistently shows that it has heart. Places For People operates entirely through the efforts of dedicated volunteers, and we'd like to thank everyone who contributes to our work—whether through volunteering, donating, or supporting our initiatives.

P4P now owns and operates 20 affordable units in Haliburton County in all four townships. The plan is to pay off the mortgages for the existing units and begin the process of collaborating with others in the community to develop new affordable housing options.

According to Roland Lange, Chair of the P4P Property Management Committee, "We're currently working with Longview Services who help charitable organizations like P4P to assess our most recent property acquisition, with the goal of improving energy efficiency and upgrading the building to meet community needs."

The Origins of #SleepingInCars

Tromanhauser reflects on the history of the event: "We started #SleepingInCars to raise awareness about the need for affordable housing in Haliburton. But as the housing crisis has deepened we've come to recognize that worker housing is a critical part of the solution. The event has evolved into an essential way for our community to engage with the issue and support our mission."

Sponsorship Opportunities

Businesses interested in supporting the event through sponsorship packages can reach out to the Haliburton County BIA or by contacting nataly@placesforpeople.ca

Join us in showing that when everyone has a place to call home, we all thrive.

Submitted

Cabaret and Karaoke coming to Legion

HSF 25 YEARS Live Theatre!
Highlands Summer Festival

Premium Orchestra Seats, including lounge access, to a Canadian Opera Company production at the Four Season Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto OR tickets to a Haliburton Huskies game at the SG Nesbitt Arena in Minden.....decisions…. decisions. Which do you choose? Well, this weekend you could just score both. How so, you ask?

Both of these fabulous items, and many more will be up for grabs at our quarter century celebration "Loving 25 years … a Festival of music with Cabaret and Karaoke" on Friday, February 14th at the Haliburton Legion on Mountain Street, Haliburton. Doors open at 7:15 p.m. and tickets are $25.00 each.

First it promises to be an explosion of outstanding performances from talented members of the HSF company, past and present, as they share some of their favourite songs from musical theatre. To cap off the stage portion of the evening, we'll open the microphone to highlight the hidden talents in the room and invite you to strut your stuff with a session of Karaoke.

During the evening excitement ensues with our Silent Auction - with prizes including 13 pairs of tickets to live events in Southern Ontario, plus generously donated gift items from business and individual supporters in our community. You will also enjoy the Toonie Auction, 50/50 draw and door prize while pondering your favourite sweet on the treat table.

Tickets are selling fast but can still be securely purchased online at www.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca - or by calling the box office at 705-457-9933 or 855-457-9933 and, if there are any left, at the door on the night of the performance.

It is bound to be a fun-filled evening, a perfect way to treat your Valentine to a night on the town and support HSF's 25 years of presenting live theatre and musical performances in the Haliburton Highlands.

For more information, about this event or about Highlands Summer Festival, contact Rita Jackson at 416-277-2035.

Submitted

25 YEARS … the drama, comedy & music continues!

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING
TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION
TO PURCHASE AN ORIGINAL ALLOWANCE FOR ROAD
MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

DATE: February 25, 2025

TIME: Any person who wishes to address Council should contact the Planning Department for a delegation time.

LOCATION: Council Chambers, Municipal Office, 135 Maple Ave., Haliburton, Ontario.

APPLICATIONS:

The Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al has, by resolution, declared the following parcels of land to be surplus.

Applicant: McPhee
Location: 1358 Grace River Road
Part of the Original Road Allowance Between Concession 1 and 2 and Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance along Grace Lake, Geographic Township of Harcourt, defined as Part 3, 4, 6 & 7 on Registered Plan 19R-6328 prepared by P.J. Stringer Surveying Ltd. dated May 20, 1997.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al proposes to consider and if deemed appropriate enact at its meeting as noted above, a by-law to close, stop-up and convey the portion of road allowance described above.

BEFORE PASSING the said by-law, the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al shall at its meeting to be held as noted above, hear in person or by his counsel, solicitor or agent, any person who claims that his land will be affected by the said by-law.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION is available for review from the Planning Department at the Municipal Office during regular offices hours (8:30 am. to 4:30 pm. Monday to Friday).

DATED at the Township of Dysart, this 11th day of February 2025.

Jeff Iles
Director of Planning and Land Information

ONTARIO NDP

Healthcare
Affordability
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Housing

Has Ford's government made any of these sectors better?
Has Laurie Scott actively and fiercely fought to save our hospitals and improve our local economy?

We are in a bad relationship with the current government. So many red flags, so many expensive broken promises. It's time to end it and find a new relationship with a government that cares about you, your family and your communities.

For seven years, Doug Ford has failed on the cost of living, housing, education, healthcare and more. Ford's failures and bad deals have left Ontario's economy weaker, and the families who live here vulnerable. We need to make Ontario stronger and more resilient so we can withstand this crisis and move beyond it. Vote for change because you and your family deserve a good life.

NDP Ready to Commit

Standing up for public healthcare by hiring 3500 more doctors over the next 4 years and connecting every Ontarian to community-based primary care teams, while cutting wait times and surgical backlogs. Reopening Minden ER and supporting our hospitals.

NDP has a plan to fix schools, hire skilled staff with fair wages, feed kids and make sure that every single student has the tools they need to succeed.

Families are trying to keep up with the rising cost of groceries so NDP will help offset those costs with a monthly grocery rebate, as well as a plan to tackle price gouging and building a more tariff-proof economy. Our communities' most vulnerable citizens, about 7% of the population, aren't meeting their basic needs, so NDP will double the rates for ODSP and OW recipients.

Whether you are renting or paying a mortgage, you should be able to afford a good home in the community you want to live in. We will double the supply of non-market subsidized housing by 2031, bring back real rent control and work through a variety of initiatives at all levels of government to get truly affordable homes built in our communities.

I will fight for you!

Barbara.Doyle@ontariondp.ca

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BARBARA DOYLE

Authorized by the CFO for the Barbara Doyle Campaign

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Looking to rent apartment or house in **Minden**, needs to be walking distance in town and pet friendly. Moving to Minden for work. Will do maintenance around house. Call Don **705-917-1119**

380 COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT

SELF CONTAINED STORAGE UNITS for rent, discounts available located on Industrial Park Road in Haliburton. **CALL 705-457-1224**

570 NOTICES

THANKS TO ST. JUDE AND THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS for favours received. May the sacred heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved, and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, help the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day for 9 days. This prayer has never failed, and your prayers will be answered. Publication must be promised. C.C.

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400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires a Payroll/Benefit Administrator

Reporting to the Deputy Treasurer the Payroll/Benefit Administrator coordinates and administers the County's payroll, benefit, and pension programs along with onboarding and leave activities.

The successful candidate will hold a college diploma in Business or Payroll Administration or other related field and possess 3 years of related municipal experience. The hourly wage range for this non-union position is $35.09 - $41.05. This position includes participation in the OMERS defined benefit pension program and employer paid extended health benefits.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a more detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than February 26, 2025, at 4:30pm.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted. The interview evaluation process will include a practical skills component.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

540 COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, February 25th @ 7pm

Downtown Haliburton's BIA:
Annual General Meeting

BIA Members are welcome to join us for the Annual General Meeting Room at the Dysart et al municipal building. (135 Maple Ave)

Get it online
www.haliburtonecho.ca

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Call 705-457-1037
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400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Will You Join the Board of the Minden Community Food Centre?

The Minden Community Food Centre, your local charity working to reduce food insecurity for those in need, is seeking a new volunteer to join our Board of Directors.

We are looking for a compassionate person with strong communication skills and a supportive team player to help us achieve our mandate to provide supplemental healthy foods for our clients living in Minden Hills.

We are looking for an individual to assume the position of Recording Secretary on the Board. Relevant skills include attention to detail, organizational skills to manage records, the ability to take accurate notes at our monthly meetings, and familiarity with Microsoft Word.

If you have the skills, time, and experience, we would like to hear from you by F**ebruary 15, 2025.** Please contact us by e-mail and tell us about your interest in the position of Recording Secretary and your background, skill set, and experience.

Send your e-mail to
mcfc.BoardMembers@gmail.com

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660 CARD OF THANKS

The Zahn family would like to say a huge thank you to the whole community for the unwavering support we have received over the past few weeks.
The cards, messages and memories shared have meant so much to our whole family. Seeing and hearing how much of an impact Joe had on others is truly something spectacular.

We also would like to say a huge thank you to all of the health care workers who were a part of Joe's care team. The kindness and level of care was above and beyond. As well as a thank you to all who made a donation to Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation.
They truly are a great cause, and we are forever thankful for them.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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R	I	M	E	■	E	L	I	C	O	D	■	E	M	M
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I	M	A	G	N	■	E	M	A	N	■	S	M	U	M
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E	S	U	■	S	M	O	R	P	■	I	E	L	I	P
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A	R	E	■	E	H	C	U	A	G	■	E	D	I	W
E	E	D	■	T	R	E	S	S	A	■	P	I	N	S

650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of
Gail Elaine Chezzie

Passed away peacefully on Friday, February 7, 2025 at the Haliburton Hospital after a short illness.

Sadly missed by her husband of 57 years Robert Chezzie, daughters Leanne (Michael) Chezzie and Christine (Steven) Draaistra, granddaughters and great grandsons.

Private Family arrangements.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) in Gail's name would be appreciated and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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Huskies Home Game

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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

EMERGENCY CALL
A man having a seizure was lucky that help was only a CB radio call away

COMMUNITY BUILDERS
Our Wilberforce and Harcourt correspondents know the influence two men can have

100 YEARS A LADIES' MAN
Collin Rowbotham has kept all his charm during the past century

THE ECHO
HALIBURTON COUNTY

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Tuesday, February 4, 2003
Vol. 120 No .9
$1 including GST

DARREN LUM/Echo

Storm warning

In game 4 of the playoffs against Schomberg on Saturday night, the Midget A Storm came on strong and never let off, building to a 6-2 victory – and the crown of the first playoff round. Captain Joel Cooper contributed a hat trick to the win. For more stories on hockey action, see page 8.

Girls making the mark for EQAO testing

SHERYL LOUCKS
Staff Reporter

Standardized test score results show girls are beating out the boys from Grade 3 to the Grade 10 Literacy test in everything - including math.

Test results from the Education Quality and Accountability Office from the last school year were recently presented to the Trillium Lakelands District School Board trustees. It is a mix of good and bad news.

A higher percentage of girls in Grades 3 and 6 are reaching the provincial standard in reading, writing and math than boys - a trend not only seen in this board but across the province. There were also 16 per cent more girls achieving the standard for Grade 10 literacy than boys.

Mike Burke, J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School principal, says boys have traditionally lagged behind girls in areas like reading and writing while excelling in history, geography and science. Unfortunately for boys those are not the areas the Ministry of Education is interested in testing.

Burke says it is "gong to be quite a challenge" to improve boys' scores but he thinks better reading material and more computer-assisted programs may be key to seeing a change.

Principals will be meeting with board consultants this week to discuss strategies to improve scores not only for boys but for all students.

> *"It's going to be quite a challenge [to improve boys' scores]*
> **Principal MICHAEL BURKE**

Dale Robinson, superintendent of programs and assessment, said the board has many initiatives which it believes will help.

Schools have made significant strides in improving reading scores and the Grade 9 math scores. Schools have not, however, made similar gains with writing scores, which concerns Robinson. Barely half of the board's students are reaching the provincial writing standard in either grade, although, Robinson says, the board was significantly in the hole when it came to Grade 6 scores at the beginning of standardized testing. They "have come a long way," he says.

The biggest change is seen in the Grade 9 applied math scores. The number of students reaching the provincial standard has almost doubled since last year. Robinson credits better math programs in Grades 7 and 8 that helped the transition to high school, as well as new popular computer programs.

Robinson says there is still a need for improvement with only 43 per cent of students reaching the provincial standard compared to 75 per cent of academic Grade 9 math students - even though both percentages are higher than the provincial average scores.

Staff have identified schools that are struggling the hardest with standardized test scores and will be working with those schools to see how they can help.

HHHS campaign has $1.7-million to go

MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

Although the fundraising campaign for the county's healthcare expansion project has come a long way towards reaching its initial goal, ongoing expenses mean there's still a fair bit to go before the capital campaign can call it quits.

Dale Walker, executive director of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, is thrilled the community has raised more than $5-million to pay its share of the expansion projects in Haliburton and Minden.

But she's also aware that the outstanding loan is $1,675,000.

"It's a lot of money," she says.

See **Foundation** *page 13*

WORK TRUCK SPECIAL
THESE VEHICLES INCLUDE FREE RUST PROOFING!

FEATURE
2003 RAM 3500 QUAD CAB DIESEL 4X4
Stk# 03-41A
fully equipped, 6,0000kms

2000 RAM 1500 4X4
Stk# 1955. AM/FM/cass, long box, air
$16,900

1998 RAM 1500 4X4
Stk# 03-37B Reg cab, auto, AM/FM/Cass, 124000km

1988 RAM 1500 4X4
Stock #02-192 Auto, air, AM/FM/Cass, 77,000km $17,500

2001 DODGE RAM 2500 LARAMIE SLT 4X4
Stock #03-65A, fully equipped, Cummins diesel, pw, pdl, ttil, cruise, p/heated mirrors, am/fm/cd, 58,000km.

KEANEY
CHRYSLER • JEEP • DODGE TRUCKS

1996 DODGE REG. CAB SLT LARAMIE 4X4
Stock # 02-201A, loaded, very low kms, 127,000km, $15,900

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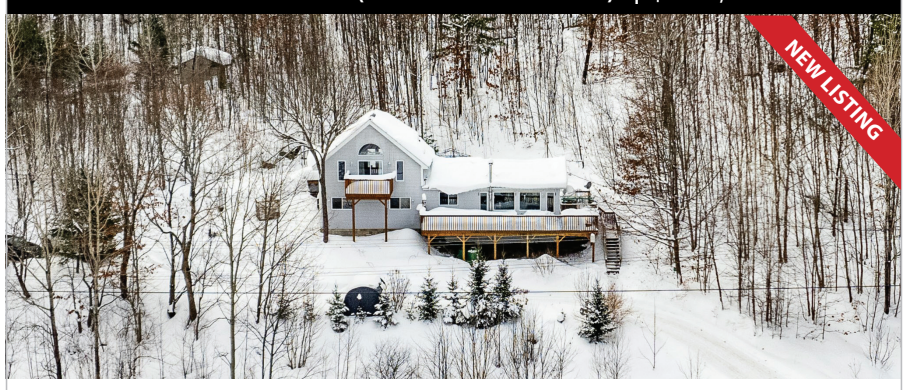
We Can Find Your Perfect Match.

BAUMGARTNER B|R REALTY GROUP

KUSHOG LAKE (ROAD BETWEEN) | $549,900



3 X BED · 2 X BATH · MLS# X11959957

GULL RIVER | $759,900

5 X BED · 3 X BATH · MLS# X10434162

EAGLE LAKE $699,900

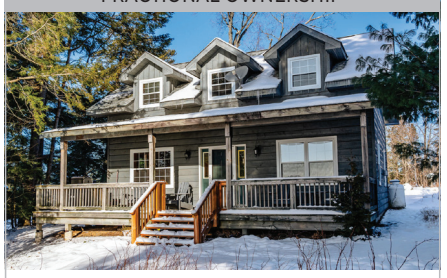
2 X BED · 1 X BATH · MLS# X10435688

HIGHLAND GROVE $474,900

3 X BED · 1 X BATH · MLS# X10437756

CHANDLER POINT $67,000

FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP

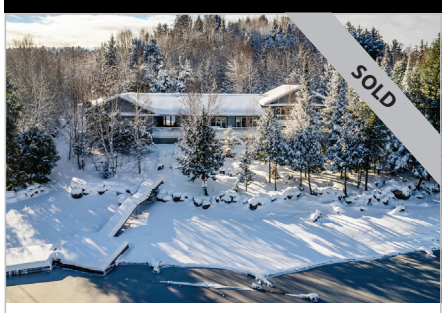


MLS# X11884689

BLACK RIVER/DRAG LAKE $499,000

3 X BED · 1 X BATH · MLS# X10435688

LITTLE REDSTONE LAKE $1,675,000



5 X BED · 4X BATH · MLS# X10436789

HALIBURTON LAKE $799,000

3 X BED · 1 X BATH

HALIBURTON LAKE $1,250,000

4 X BED · 3 X BATH

EAGLE LAKE $925,000

3 X BED · 2 X BATH

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VACANT LAND FOR SALE

Haliburton Lake Road
MLS X10437518
$250,000
14.53 Acres

Basshaunt Lake Road
MLS X10437016
$109,000
2.19 Acres

Bethel Road
MLS X11955874
$178,000
25 Acres

Wenona Lake Road
MLS X11953943
$95,000
0.42 Acres

FEATURED LISTING

MLS X10437518

PT 11-12
Haliburton Lake Rd
$250,000
Fort Irwin
2293 feet of frontage
14.53 Acres

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